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RURAL DISTRICT OF  
SOUTH WESTMORLAND



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1940

*Titus Wilson & Son, Ltd., Kendal.*



RURAL DISTRICT OF  
SOUTH WESTMORLAND

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1940

*To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council of  
South Westmorland.*

SIR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report on the Health of the Rural District for the year 1940.

The Ministry of Health has issued a Circular stressing economy in the matter of paper and printing and states that these reports should be confined to essential and urgent matters which have affected Public Health.

It is in accordance with these instructions that I have compiled this Report.

Should you desire any further particulars, I shall be glad to supply the same on your request.

I have the honour to be,

Sir and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. BARON COCKILL,

Medical Officer of Health.

23rd June, 1941

*Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the  
Year ending December 31st, 1940.*

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Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid  
1940 ... .. 18,560

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

|                                                         |        |     |     |                            |
|---------------------------------------------------------|--------|-----|-----|----------------------------|
| Live Births:—                                           | Total. | M.  | F.  |                            |
| Legitimate ...                                          | 204    | 109 | 95  | Birth Rate per 1,000 of    |
| Illegitimate ...                                        | 4      | 1   | 3   | the estimated resident     |
|                                                         |        |     |     | population, 11.3.          |
| Birth Rate: England and Wales                           | ...    |     |     | 14.6.                      |
| Still Births ...                                        | 7      | 4   | 3   | Rate per 1,000 total (live |
|                                                         |        |     |     | and still) births, 32.6.   |
| Deaths ...                                              | 230    | 102 | 128 | Death Rate per 1,000 of    |
|                                                         |        |     |     | the estimated resident     |
|                                                         |        |     |     | population, 11.3.          |
| Death Rate: England and Wales                           | ...    |     |     | 14.3.                      |
| Deaths from Puerperal Causes:—                          |        |     |     |                            |
| Puerperal Sepsis                                        | ...    | ... | ... | Nil.                       |
| Other Puerperal Causes                                  | ...    | ... | ... | Nil.                       |
| Total                                                   | ...    | ... | ... | Nil.                       |
| Maternal and Mortality Rate: England and Wales          | ...    |     |     | 2.16                       |
| Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:—             |        |     |     |                            |
| All Infants per 1,000 live births                       | ...    | ... | ... | 46.7                       |
| Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births     | ...    |     |     | 50                         |
| Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births | ...    |     |     | Nil.                       |
| Infantile Death Rate: England and Wales                 | ...    | ... | ... | 55                         |
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages)                           | ...    | ... | ... | 26                         |
| „ Measles (all ages)                                    | ...    | ... | ... | Nil.                       |
| „ Whooping Cough (all ages)                             | ...    | ... | ... | Nil.                       |
| „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)                      | ...    | ... | ... | 1                          |

The largest number of deaths from any one cause were:—

|                               |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |    |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Heart Disease                 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 70 |
| Cancer                        | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 26 |
| Intracranial vascular lesions | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 24 |

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### WATER.

There have been no new water supplies. Quarterly bacteriological examinations of the public water supplies have been made and the results have been satisfactory.

A new 3 inch main has been laid at Natland from the Church to St. Mark's Home.

### LUPTON RESERVOIR.

A scheme for additional filtration and chlorination has been sanctioned by the Ministry of Health.

### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Sewage Disposal Works at Casterton and Milnthorpe are not satisfactory.

*Endmoor.* The new Sewage Disposal Works and Sewerage Scheme for this village have been completed and are now in use.

### PUBLIC CLEANSING.

There has been no change in this system during the year nor any extension of the same.

### HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

|                                |     |     |     |     |    |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| (1) By the Local Authority     | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8  |
| (2) By other bodies or persons | ... | ... | ... | ... | 35 |

There has been a certain amount of overcrowding due to the influx of evacuees which has increased the population by over 3,000.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### MILK.

The taking of samples under the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act has been continued and 39 samples have been taken, of which 16 were clean, 8 moderately clean and 15 dirty.

## MEAT.

Private slaughter-houses were closed on January 15th and from that date meat has been supplied through the Central slaughter-house in Kendal.

## ADULTERATION, ETC., AND CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

The County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority and this work is carried out by Mr. C. J. H. Stock, BSc., F.I.C., County Analyst, Darlington

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

There were 21 cases of Scarlet Fever, one of these being an evacuee, 5 cases of Diphtheria, 3 being evacuees, 9 cases of Erysipelas and one case each of Enteric Fever, Relapsing Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia. There were no less than 14 cases of Poliomyelitis, ten of which occurred in a privately evacuated school, where considerable overcrowding occurred: there was no room in the Kendal Isolation Hospital for these ten but the Lancaster Isolation Hospital accommodated them. Cerebro-spinal Meningitis cases numbered 4 and Pneumonia 5. The Enteric Fever case probably contracted the disease outside the district. One Pneumonia and the Relapsing Fever ended fatally. Considering the increase of population the incidence of Infectious Disease has been satisfactory.

There were 356 cases of Measles and 31 of Whooping Cough.

Whilst the notification of Measles and Whooping Cough does not assist the control of these diseases, the Ministry of Health desires the fullest data indicating the incidence and distribution of them.

Artificial immunization against Diphtheria was continued through the elementary schools and was done under the Education Authority and A.P.T. is the prophylactic which has been used.

Up to date Isolation Hospital accommodation is still lacking.

A special Hostel has been established at Hincaster House for evacuee problem children, not suitable for billeting in private houses.

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# INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

| DISEASE.                | Total. | Ages. |    |    |    |    |     |     |     |     |     | Admitted to Hospital. | Deaths. |
|-------------------------|--------|-------|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------------------|---------|
|                         |        | -1    | 1- | 2- | 3- | 4- | 5-  | 10- | 15- | 20- | 35- | 45-                   | 65-     |
| Scarlet Fever ..        | 21     | —     | —  | —  | 1  | 1  | 11  | 3   | 3   | 2   | —   | —                     | 18      |
| Diphtheria ..           | 5      | —     | —  | —  | —  | 1  | 2   | —   | 1   | 1   | —   | —                     | 5       |
| Enteric Fever ..        | 1      | —     | —  | —  | —  | —  | —   | —   | 1   | —   | —   | —                     | 1       |
| Pneumonia ..            | 5      | —     | —  | —  | —  | —  | 2   | 1   | —   | —   | 1   | —                     | 1       |
| Erysipelas ..           | 9      | —     | —  | —  | —  | —  | —   | —   | 2   | 1   | 2   | 2                     | —       |
| Cerebro-Spinal Fever .. | 4      | —     | —  | —  | —  | —  | 1   | —   | 1   | 1   | —   | —                     | 4       |
| Acute Poliomyelitis ..  | 14     | —     | —  | —  | —  | —  | 7   | 4   | 3   | —   | —   | —                     | 11      |
| Relapsing Fever ..      | 1      | —     | —  | —  | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | —   | —   | 1                     | 1       |
| Puerperal Pyrexia ..    | 1      | —     | —  | —  | —  | —  | —   | —   | —   | 1   | —   | —                     | —       |
| Measles ..              | 356    | 4     | 3  | 13 | 19 | 12 | 123 | 113 | 42  | 16  | 7   | 4                     | 5       |
| Whooping Cough ..       | 31     | 1     | 3  | 3  | 3  | 2  | 16  | 1   | 1   | —   | 1   | —                     | —       |
| TOTAL ..                | 448    | 5     | 6  | 16 | 23 | 16 | 162 | 122 | 54  | 22  | 12  | 6                     | 44      |
|                         |        |       |    |    |    |    |     |     |     |     |     |                       | 2       |



TUBERCULOSIS TABLE.

| Age<br>Periods. | NEW CASES.   |    |                  |    | DEATHS       |    |                  |    |
|-----------------|--------------|----|------------------|----|--------------|----|------------------|----|
|                 | Respiratory. |    | Non-Respiratory. |    | Respiratory. |    | Non-Respiratory. |    |
|                 | M.           | F. | M.               | F. | M.           | F. | M.               | F. |
| 0               | —            | —  | —                | —  | —            | —  | —                | —  |
| 1               | —            | —  | —                | —  | —            | —  | —                | —  |
| 5               | —            | —  | —                | 1  | —            | —  | —                | —  |
| 15              | —            | 2  | —                | —  | —            | —  | —                | —  |
| 25              | 1            | 1  | —                | —  | 1            | —  | —                | —  |
| 35              | 2            | —  | —                | —  | 1            | —  | —                | —  |
| 45              | —            | —  | —                | —  | —            | 1  | —                | —  |
| 55              | 1            | —  | —                | —  | —            | —  | 1                | —  |
| 65              | —            | —  | —                | —  | —            | —  | 1                | —  |
| TOTAL           | 4            | 3  | —                | 1  | 2            | 1  | 2                | —  |

Of the eight cases notified seven were pulmonary, four of whom died, the non-pulmonary case was one of abdominal glands. Two of the pulmonary cases and the non-pulmonary had contracted the disease prior to coming into the district; one of these was a military case and one an evacuee.





